



NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Miami, Florida 33165

...Hot and Dry October Across South Florida...

November 2, 2009: High pressure in the middle and upper levels of the atmosphere dominated the weather pattern over south Florida during the month of October (Figure 1). This set the stage for a very warm and dry month across south Florida. The only break from this persistent pattern was a cold front which swept across the area on October 17th, bringing about the official end of the rainy season. The record-breaking cool weather following the front only lasted a few days, before hotter and more humid conditions returned to the area through the end of the month.

An all-time hottest October record was set in Miami with an average temperature of 82.4 degrees for the month of October. This was 3.6 degrees above average, and broke the previous warmest October record of 82.05 degrees set in 2002. Miami observed 14 days of temperatures reaching 90 degrees or higher, which tied the record for most number of 90-plus degree days set back in 1989.

Moore Haven recorded a total of 18 days of temperatures reaching at least 90 degrees. This broke the previous record of 16 days set in 1986. LaBelle registered 22 days of 90-plus degree temperatures, one day short of the record set in 2002.

Following are average temperatures, departures from normal and rank for a few south Florida locations:

| Location | October 2009 Average Temperature | Departure From Normal | Rank |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Miami Int'l | 82.4 | +3.6 | Record Warmest |
| Fort Lauderdale Int'l | 80.4 | +1.6 | 8 th warmest |
| Palm Beach Int'l | 80.1 | +2.0 | 10 th warmest |
| Naples Regional | 79.9 | +2.7 | 6 th warmest |
| Miami Beach | 80.8 | +2.3 | 5 th warmest |
| Moore Haven | 78.7 | +3.0 | 9 th warmest |

The persistent high pressure was also responsible for dry conditions area-wide. October rainfall totals ranged mostly in the 1 to 3 inch range, compared to the normal of 3 to 8 inches. Extremes ranged from 0.11 inches at Ortona in southern Glades County to 4.76 inches at The Redland in south Miami-Dade County. Eastern sections of south Florida were 4 to 7 inches below normal for the month while interior and western areas were generally 1 to 3 inches below normal (Figure 2).

Fort Lauderdale established their all-time driest October on record with a total of only 0.73 inches of rain. This was 5.71 inches below average. The previous driest October for Fort Lauderdale was 0.94 inches set in 1977.

Following are October rainfall totals, departure from normal and rank for several south Florida locations:

| Location | October 2009 Rainfall | Departure From Normal | Rank |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Miami Int'l | 2.62 | -3.57 | 13 th driest |
| Fort Lauderdale Int'l | 0.73 | -5.71 | Driest on record |
| Palm Beach Int'l | 1.91 | -3.55 | 7 th driest |
| Naples Regional | 0.45 | -3.15 | 5 th driest |
| Miami Beach | 2.58 | -1.95 | 12 th driest |
| Moore Haven | 0.67 | -2.28 | 14 th driest |

The [outlook for November from the Climate Prediction Center](#) calls for equal chances of above, below or near normal temperatures and an increased likelihood of above normal precipitation. November is the first month in which an existing El Niño can significantly influence regional temperature and precipitation.

Average temperatures for November range from 70 degrees around Lake Okeechobee to 74 degrees along the lower southeast coast. Average November rainfall ranges from 2 to 3 inches interior and western areas to 3 to 5 inches over eastern sections.

For the latest weather conditions, forecasts, warnings, advisories and statements, please visit the National Weather Service Miami-South Florida Forecast Office's web site at weather.gov/southflorida.

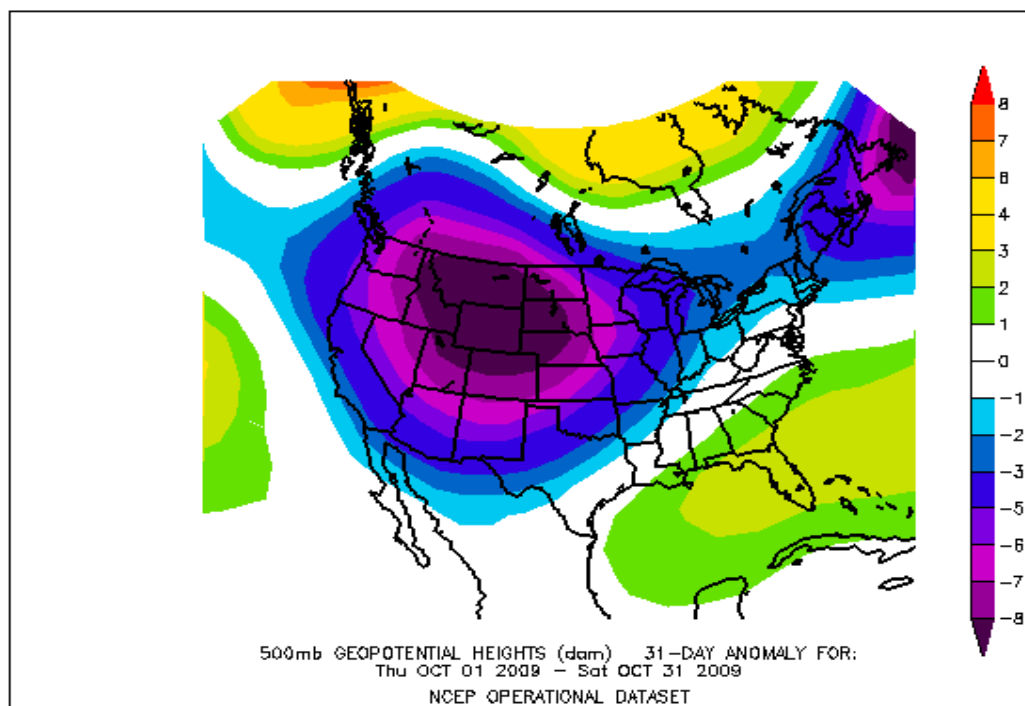


Figure 1: 500 mb (mid-level) height anomalies. Above normal heights (higher pressure) indicated in green/yellow across Florida.

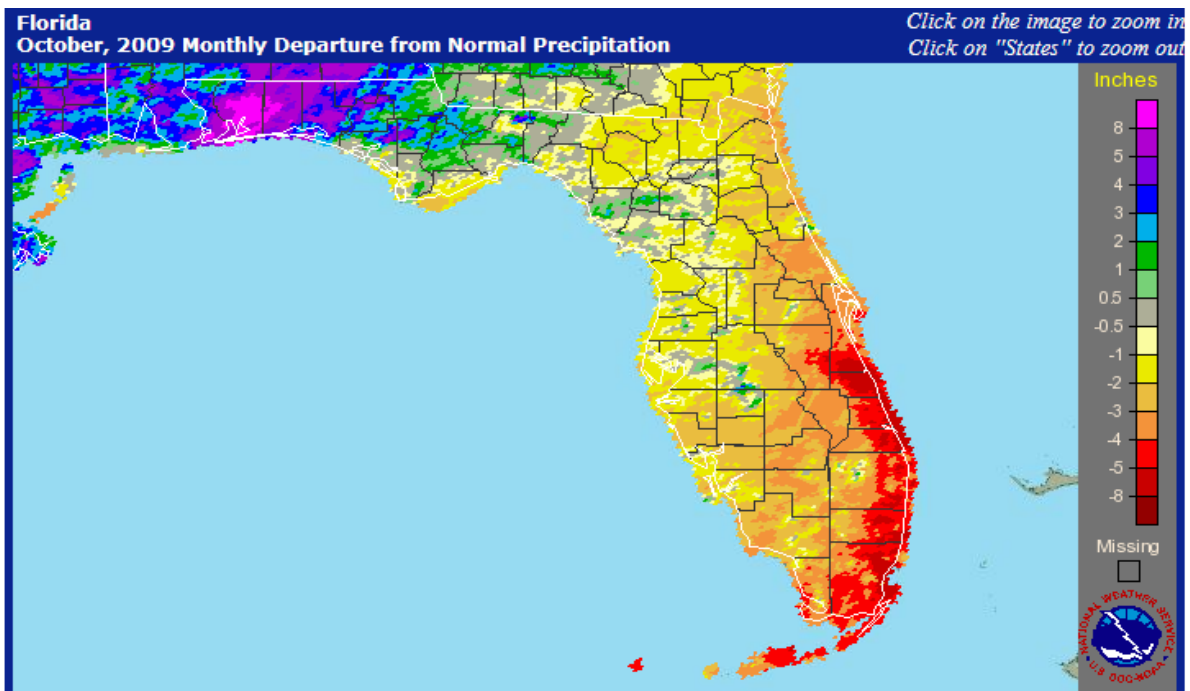


Figure 2: October rainfall departure from normal. Red/maroon areas are 4-7 inches below normal. Orange/tan/yellow areas are 1-4 inches below normal.